

## History of John and Phebe Stafford Tingey

My grandfather, John Tingey, was the son of George Tingey and Charlotte Judd. He was born December 27, 1821 in Colmworth, Bedfordshire, England. He married Phebe Stafford June 27, 1847. She was born in Wellingboro, Northamptonshire, England.

When John was a young child his father was shanghaied and shipped to New Zealand or Australia where he is supposed to have been killed by natives. His mother with her two small children left Colmworth and went back to her people in Wellingboro. Her second child, Ephraim, two years younger than John, died soon afterward. The boy John, at a tender age, was apprenticed to a shoemaker. He followed this trade the rest of his life. He became so expert at his trade that in later years his handmade boots were worn by many of the leading Church and business men in the early days in the Salt Lake Valley. He himself never wore a pair of factory made shoes in all his life. He always made his own.

As far as we know, John's youth passed in an uneventful way, until he heard and accepted the message of the missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints. There was a branch of the Church in Irchester, Northamptonshire. Here John was baptized on March 11, 1845 when he was a little over twenty three years old.

Two years after embracing the Gospel John married Phebe Stafford. She was the daughter of Francis Stafford and Catherine Smith and came of a long line of Staffords whose pedigree ran unbroken back to King Edward the First of England. John probably taught her the Gospel before they were married. When she was baptized in December 1845 just a year and a half before her marriage her people disinherited her. She left her life of comfort and her inheritance and cast her lot with the people of her new Faith.

John labored as a missionary in the Irchester branch from the time he was baptized by Peter Sheffield and was called to preside over this branch on March 11, 1849. This office he held until he emigrated to Utah with his wife and one child. Their first child was named John Alma and was born July 5, 1848 but he died before the couple left England having lived only till November 10, 1848. The second child, a girl named Marantha Althera, born March 9, 1850 left with the parents when they sailed from England on the ship "Joseph Badger" October 17, 1850. After landing in New Orleans they traveled as far as St. Louis. Here they stopped while John worked at his trade to earn enough money to continue the journey to Utah. Again trouble came to these faithful emigrants -- their little girl died at St Louis June 23, 1851.

A year later John and Phebe were ready to continue on their journey. They left St Louis with another couple each sharing the expense of a wagon and a team of oxen. The four of them traveled along with the first company of "Perpetual Emigration Fund" emigrants under the captaincy of Abraham O Smoot. This company arrived in Great Salt City on Friday the third of September. It was met by the First Presidency of the Church and Capt William Pitt's band, also many leading citizens.

That must have been a happy welcome after the long trip across the plains during which they had suffered many hardships. John and his wife had walked every step of the way from St Louis to the Salt Lake valley with the exception of three days that Phebe rode in the wagon following the birth of a child they named Lehi. He was born July 23, 1852. How eager they must have been to get to Zion to start a journey like that when it was time for their baby to be born! I often ponder on the faith and endurance of that delicately reared pioneer grandmother of mine. The Lord must have given her much strength!

When the company reached Salt Lake City each couple took one of the team of oxen and divided the wagon between them cutting it in two parts. John and Phebe camped out in the half wagon until they secured a one room cabin with a dirt roof, located just west of where the West Side High School now stands. Their was just a dirt floor too and when it rained Phebe had to hold an umbrella over herself and baby to keep them dry. They lived here the first winter, having just bread, molasses and squash to eat. IN the spring they moved to the old Fielding home on Second West and First North Streets. Family tradition has it that it was through the kindness of Mary Fielding Smith, widow of the Prophet Hyrum Smith, that the John Tingey's lived there until after the fourth child, Phebe Stafford, was born December 20, 1854.

They must have been getting ahead a little because on the 2nd of November 1854 John purchased from Thomas Whittle forty square rods of land with a four rod frontage on Second West St, for the sum of \$110.00. Here John built one room, dirt roof and no floor except for a few boards. This was the nucleus of the two story home John built, a room at a time in which he lived until his death at 82 yrs of age. Their fifth child Joseph Stafford was born here July 16, 1857. Phebe whitewashed one corner of the room so she could have a clean place to put the bed in preparation for this event.

This son, Joseph, found his life's work in the Deseret News Printing establishment; it was he who printed the first issues of the "Childrens' Friend" after hours, for the Primary Association. He took up his father's research in family genealogy and it must have been a joy to his father to have such co-operation!

About this time, Johnston's Army was a real threat to the settlers and John moved his family south, piled straw about his little home, and left as a member of the Utah State Militia. But John turned this to advantage by making boots for the army leaders during their winter encampment and with the money earned he bought an additional four by five rods of land joining the forty square rods on the east. He paid \$75.00 for this to William H Hooper. Tradition says he gave a pig in payment but the old signed receipt says "seventy-five DOLLARS."

In one corner of his one-room home John built a cobbler's bench at which to work. For many years the only pay he received for his work was produce of different kinds and he always took the best part of whatever he received to the Tithing Office, as tithing. All his life he was a strict tithepayer. Later he made boots for the officers at Fort Douglas for which he received cash.

The sixth child, Charles Stafford, was born October 25, 1859. He grew up to be a handsome man who became Secretary of State and was instrumental in building the present Utah State Capitol. His picture, an oil painting, hangs there now.

The seventh child, Franklin Stafford, was born May 29, 1862. He started work in the hardware Dept of Z C M I, at 16 yrs of age; he gave his mother all his earnings to use as she needed until time for him to plan marriage. Next to his Church his whole loyalty was to the "Store" until his resignation at age 67.

The eighth and last child, Mary Ellen Stafford, was born Dec 29, 1864. She married Edward Lannox Sloan.

During these years John and Phebe had built up their place. They planted fruit trees, had a beautiful garden with double plank walks to the garden, the big barn, cellar etc. They always kept a cow. Every foot of the place was planted and so neat and there were big well-built swings for the children. In my mind I can see it all now.

This family was always active in the ward. John was a ward teacher for 20 yrs; was ordained a Seventy by Lysander Gee Feb 16, 1853; was ordained a High Priest and made first Counselor to Bp John Henry Smith by Presiding Edward Hunter as Bp of the Seventeenth Ward, Salt Lake Stake; was bishop for 16 yrs and then released and made a Patriarch Sept 13 1896

acting in that capacity until his death on Jan 10, 1904. His wife had died in Salt Lake City Oct 23, 1890. In 1893 he spent some months in England in genealogical research with wonderful results.

John and Phebe had eight children as follows:

John Alma	died an infant
Marintha Althera	died an infant
Lehi Stafford	Married Amelia Jane Needham
Phebe Stafford	Married William Perry Nebeker
Joseph Stafford	Martha Jane Horne
Charles Stafford	Married Sarah Lovina Hyde
Franklin Stafford	Married Sarah Ann Bywater
Mary Ellen Stafford	Married Edward Lennox Sloan

Pres Geo Albert Smith visited and described to us the old Tingey home in Colmworth. It had stood many yrs and was still sturdy, but the three heavy stone entrance steps down to the front door were hollowed out from the long use. The roof was thatched. My memories of my grandfather are very dear to me; he was the only grandparent I knew. The neat well-planted, well-kept grounds, the lawns and flowers, sturdy swings with their red painted seats, the huge barn loft with its sweet-smelling hay! It all spelled thrift and frugality and honesty. And the Shoemaker Shop! with a large wooden chest against the north wall which held tools in the tray and when grandpa lifted the tray there were bright red apples shiny and firm ready for grandchildren and visitors alike. I can just see him punching holes in the leather and passing two needles through, then jerking the black heavily waxed thread taut. He was never too busy to have us children hang around and the shop always had visitors there. One batchelor neighbor used to take unexpectedly ill there and grandfather cared for him till he was better and then gently walked him home. He was always a very kind quiet man, thoughtful and considerate of all and especially fond of children. My little sister Ada was always on his knee it seemed and he loved her dearly. She died 2 ½ months after he did when she was 2 yrs old.

The last two yrs Grandpa became forgetful. He would dress all up in his black broadcloth suit and stiff white shirt and go up to the Tabernacle and sit for a couple of hours any day in the week and come home and say the meeting was wonderful. He took to carrying home the tin cups that used to be at the drinking places on the Tabernacle grounds. Mother would wash them and Dad would take them back. But he never forgot to pray. He offered beautiful prayers right up to the last.

The Deseret News said this of him, "Bishop Tingey was a man of strong character, altho quiet and unassuming in his nature. He was of a kindly disposition and had many friends but no enemies. Secretly he sought out the wayward and pointed them to a better life, and in this he was signally successful especially among the boys and girls. He will be sorely missed by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances."

Florence Tingey Larsen  
Grandchild of John Tingey